

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE GOH OFFICIAL VISITORS TO U.S.

1. AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS CALLED ON DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY ARMITAGE FEBRUARY 9 TO INDICATE THAT GOH WOULD BE PLEASED IF IT WERE CONVENIENT TO ARRANGE A VISIT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SZEKER TO THE US DURING THE FIRST HALF OF MAY. ESZTERGALYOS WOULD RECOMMEND TWO DAYS IN WASHINGTON AND 4-5 DAYS VISITING FACTORIES AND CONFERRING WITH INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERS OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL.

2. ARMITAGE SAID THAT WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO MUTUAL VISITS OF LEADING OFFICIALS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT DEPPRIMIN SZEKER WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT US AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. SEC RICHARDSON HAS JUST ASSUMED OFFICE AND, WHILE WE ARE SURE THAT HE SHARES INTEREST OF HIS PREDECESSOR SECRETARY MORTON IN DEPPRIMIN'S VISIT, THIS WILL BE MOST BUSY YEAR FOR SECRETARY RICHARDSON AND IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME FOR HIM TO WORK OUT HIS OWN SCHEDULING PLANS. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN ORDER TO RELAY GOH'S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN SZEKER VISIT BUT
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WILL COUNT ON GOH UNDERSTANDING IF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS SHOULD ARISE. ESZTERGALYOS REPLIED THAT SEC. RICHARDSON

HAS HEAVY DEMANDS ON HIS TIME, ESPECIALLY SINCE HIS NAME HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD AS A POSSIBLE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH SCHEDULING, AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE TIME FOR A VISIT BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER ROMANY. IT IS HOPED THAT THE POSTPONED VISIT OF DEPUTY MINISTER AGRICULTURE VANSKA WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SPRING. ESZTERGALYOS CHARACTERIZED SUCH A VISIT AS TECHNICAL, WITH MEETINGS OF EXPERTS, IMPLYING IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED POLICY-LEVEL VISIT WITH "OFFICIAL" CHARACTER.

4. IN RESPONSE TO ARMITAGE'S QUERY REGARDING A VISIT BY MARJAI, ESZTERGALYOS REPLIED THAT A DECISION WAS PENDING THE FIRING UP OF FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA'S OWN SCHEDULE. THE TWO COULD NOT BE OUT OF HUNGARY AT THE SAME TIME AND PUJA WAS TRAVELING QUITE A BIT.

5. ESZTERGALYOS MENTIONED THAT, DURING A RECENT CALL ON REP. O'NEILL, THE CONGRESSMAN HAD SUGGESTED PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES. ARMITAGE AND ESZTERGALYOS AGREED THAT SMALL GROUPS COMING INFORMALLY WERE PREFERABLE TO LARGE FORMAL DELEGATIONS. ESZTERGALYOS SAID HE WAS NOT RECOMMENDING VISITS BY GOH LEGISLATORS DURING ELECTION YEAR. INGERSOLL

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